

*Sanitary*

**Mexborough Urban District Council**

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# **REPORT**

ON THE

## **Health of the District**

DURING THE YEAR ENDING

DECEMBER 31st, 1954

by

DR. JOHN LEIPER, M.B.E.

Medical Officer of Health

together with the

**Report of the Chief Sanitary  
Inspector**

MR. H. BREARLEY.



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# MEXBOROUGH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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## **Members as at 31st December, 1954**

### **Chairman of the Council:**

Councillor S. WORTH, J.P.

### **Vice-Chairman of the Council:**

Councillor T. ROEBUCK

### **Chairman of the Public Health Committee:**

Councillor J. SCHOFIELD

### **Councillors:**

L. BOOTH	J. S. MEEK
Mrs. F. BRADSHAW	G. S. MORLEY
W. H. F. DIXON	C. SENIOR
M. DOUGHTY	A. E. SKINNER
J. E. FISHER	J. H. WHITE
G. M. HANSON	J. C. WILLETTS
G. W. HURST	J. WOOTTON
K. LEE	

### **Medical Officer of Health:**

JOHN LEIPER, M.B.E., M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S.,  
L.R.C.P., D.P.H., M.R.S.I.

### **Deputy Medical Officer of Health:**

BARBARA R. A. DEMAINE, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

### **Chief Sanitary Inspector and Director of Public Cleansing:**

H. BREARLEY, Cert. S.I.B., M.S.I.A.  
Cert Inspector of Meat and other Foods

### **Senior Clerk (Divisional Public Health Department):**

P. GODDARD

### **Chief Clerk (Sanitary Inspector's Department):**

P. H. WHITE

DIVISIONAL HEALTH STAFF  
Employed in the Mexborough Urban District

**Divisional Medical Officer:**

DR. JOHN LEIPER

**Deputy Divisional Medical Officer:**

DR. BARBARA R. A. DEMAINE

**Assistant County Medical Officer:**

DR. HELEN F. LINDSAY

**Obstetrician:**

DR. J. C. MACWILLIAM

(Joint appointment with Regional Hospital Board)

**Child Health Specialist:**

DR. C. C. HARVEY

**Speech Therapist:**

MISS M. FISH

**Mental Health Social Worker:**

MRS. F. H. REDMAN

**Mental Health Home Teacher:**

MRS. P. WINSTANLEY

**Health Visitors and School Nurses:**

MRS. E. APPLEYARD

MISS M. A. DONOGHUE

MISS M. LLOYD

MISS H. WRAY

**Midwives:**

MRS. S. BEARDSLEY

MRS. A. E. SMITH (Relief)

MRS. M. TAYLOR

MISS N. TUNE

**Home Nurses:**

MRS. F. M. CHAPPELL

MISS B. COLLINS

MRS. N. HARRISON

# **Annual Report**

## **of the Medical Officer of Health**

### **FOR THE YEAR 1954**

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Divisional Public Health Office,  
Council Offices,  
Adwick Road,  
Mexborough.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you this, my last Annual Report as your Medical Officer of Health, and in these circumstances it is perhaps not unnatural that I should look back over the past seven years during the time I have been Medical Officer to your Authority.

I have in mind an extract from my Annual Report for 1948:  
“The year has been one of great social events and changes which will be reflected shortly in your annual statistics. My appreciation of the health situation in your District is that you are now on the threshold of a new era in social medicine. By means of health education and teamwork of the social and environmental hygiene staffs, it is hoped slowly to come to a position where the priceless gem of positive health of the people of your District may be obtained.”

During the seven years it is observed that the Infant Death Rate per 1,000 live births has fallen from 53 in 1948 to 42 in 1954, the average rate over the past seven years being 41. There has also been a slow and steady diminution in the Crude Death Rate, although the Crude Birth Rate has fallen from 18.7 per thousand of the estimated resident population in 1948 to 15.1 in 1954. It is also pleasant to record that the Stillbirth Rate during this period has been reduced from 27 to 20 per thousand live and stillbirths in the same period, and that there has also been a steady reduction in the number of deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis. It should, however, be remembered that there is nothing like a similar reduction in the number of notifications of new cases of Tuberculosis, but here again there is some slight improvement.

I wish to stress the need for the protection of children under one year of age against Diphtheria. If this disease is to be kept away from the District, more young children at eight months of age should be protected against it than are at present, either at the family doctor's surgery or at the child welfare centre. Also I am disturbed at the very few children who are being vaccinated in infancy. Smallpox is a disease which has occurred as an outbreak in this county in 1953 and, with modern quick travelling, it can be and is imported unwittingly to us. Many more healthy children about four months of age should be vaccinated than are being vaccinated at the moment.

Although the percentage of aged persons (men over the age of 65 and women over the age of 60) is only 7.4 of the whole population (the average being about eleven per cent. in the country as a whole) it is nevertheless opportune to consider the provision of even more homes for aged persons as an integral part of future housing estates.

The personal health services have, I think it will be agreed, developed rapidly during the last few years, especially the work of the Home Nurses, whose nursing attention, particularly of the aged sick, is appreciated by all.

The Health Visiting Service has also developed greatly, so that now this nurse is the Family Social Worker whose work is of a selective nature, i.e., to visit where it is necessary, to offer advice and help, whilst keeping to a reasonable minimum the number of visits made to families in which there is no medico-social problem. More of the Health Visitors' time is now taken up with visits to the aged and the after-care of tuberculous patients, where there is complete liaison with the physicians at the Chest Clinic at Mexborough.

The Midwives continue to render the community a great service and steps are being taken to see if low calorie high protein diet during pregnancy will help to minimise the incidence of premature births and thus solve the greater part of the problem of prematurity. Because of the appointment of Dr. J. C. MacWilliam as Joint Obstetrician with the Local Health Authority and the Sheffield Regional Hospital Board, complete liaison has been obtained during the year between the Montagu Hospital and the ante-natal clinics with beneficial results to expectant mothers.

A start was made during 1954 with the slum clearance programme, and arrangements were made to create a re-development area in the Clayfield Road area, where slum premises will be

demolished and the site cleared for the erection of new houses. There is much sub-standard property in the town, and it is realised that it will be some considerable time before all the proposed schemes can be completed.

During the year close co-operation has been maintained between the Public Health Department and my colleagues in general practising in the District, whose care and attention to their patients cannot be over-estimated, also between the Public Health Departments and the local Hospitals in respect of the care and after-care of patients in the various Hospitals in which residents in the district have been in-patients.

I would like to conclude this introduction by saying how highly I hold in regard the work of Mr. H. Brearley, and also the fine co-operation I have had from the Clerk of the Council, and indeed from all officers.

I wish to thank my own staff for their loyal co-operation and hard work during the year. The help and co-operation I have received from Dr. B. R. A. Demaine has indeed been splendid, and in leaving the District I knew that the work of safeguarding the public health would be surely and efficiently maintained.

I would also like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Council for all the help, support and co-operation I have received from them during the tenure of my appointment as Medical Officer of Health.

I am,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

JOHN LEIPER,

Medical Officer of Health.

## SECTION A.

### NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,452
Registrar General's estimate of Resident Population mid-1954	...	...	...	...	...	...	19,020
Number of inhabited houses (31st December, 1954)	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,271
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	£80,650
Net Product of a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	£297
Height above sea level (in feet)	...	...	...	...	...	...	50-250
Rainfall for the year (in inches)	...	...	...	...	...	...	25.67
Number of days on which rain fell	...	...	...	...	...	...	171
Mean Temperature (degrees Fahrenheit)	...	...	...	...	...	...	49.17

The population of 19,020 shows a decrease of 220 on the estimate provided by the Registrar General for mid-1953 but, as it will be noted from the Table below, there has been no appreciable change since 1948.

Perhaps the major problem of the area, however, is the shortage of houses, there being only an increase of 241 since 1948, and only 40 have been built since 1952. Preparations were, however, in hand for a large new estate on which 400 houses would eventually be erected. The rateable value and the net product of a penny rate both increased during the past year and both are higher than at any other time since 1947.

The rainfall in 1954 was almost double that of the previous year, 25.67 inches being recorded compared with 15.2 in 1953. The local difficulty with regard to the water supply was solved during the year by the conclusion of an agreement with the Sheffield Corporation for the supply of a bulk quantity. The following Table gives details of the statistics quoted above for the last seven years:

	MEXBOROUGH U.D.						
	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
Area (in acres) ..				1,452			
Registrar General's estimate of resident population (mid-year)	19,150	19,270	19,120	18,730	19,230	19,240	19,020
No. of inhabited houses	5,028	5,134	5,153	5,190	5,231	5,261	5,271
Rateable Value (£'s) ..	75,585	77,445	78,934	78,891	79,124	79,890	80,650
Net Product of 1d. Rate (£'s) .. ..	277	282	286	295	295	295	297
Rainfall for Year ..	21.03"	29.58"	26.31"	24.32"	17.42"	15.20"	25.67"
No. of days on which rain fell .. ..	153	133	174	160	143	118	171
Mean Temp. (°F) ..	50.8	52.75	49.98	49.70	49.40	50.95	49.17

## BIRTH AND MORTALITY RATES FOR 1954

Mexborough Urban District Council, West Riding Administrative  
County and England and Wales

	Mexbro' U.D	Aggre- gate of U.D.'s	Aggre- gate of R.D.'s	Admini- strative County	England and Wales
Crude Birth ...	15.1	14.7	16.3	15.1	15.2
Adjusted Birth ..	14.5	14.8	16.4	15.3	15.2
Crude Death ...	9.1	12.7	9.9	11.9	11.3
Adjusted Death .	11.0	12.8	11.4	12.5	11.3
Infective and Parasitic Diseases excluding tuberculosis but including syphilis and other venereal diseases					
	0.11	0.07	0.08	0.08	*
Tuberculosis, respiratory ...	0.37	0.18	0.12	0.16	0.16
Tuberculosis, other ...	—	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.02
Tuberculosis all forms ...	0.37	0.19	0.14	0.18	0.18
Cancer ...	1.63	2.12	1.70	2.01	2.04
Vascular Lesions of the nervous system ...					
	1.21	2.03	1.33	1.84	*
Heart and Circu- latory ...	2.63	4.88	3.64	4.54	*
Respiratory diseases ...	1.26	1.27	1.08	1.22	*
Maternal mortality	—	0.80	1.10	0.89	0.69
Infant mortality .	41.8	28.3	27.2	28.0	25.5
Neo-natal mortality	31.4	18.6	17.4	18.3	17.7
Stillbirth ...	20.5	26.6	24.2	25.9	23.4

\* Figures not available.

The rates for "Infective and Parasitic Diseases" are the combined death rate from the classes of diseases included in headings 3 to 9 inclusive of the Registrar General's Table S.D.30.

Those for "Heart and Circulatory" are the combined rate from the diseases included in headings 18 to 21 inclusive.

Those for "Respiratory Diseases" are the combined rate from the diseases included in headings 22 to 25 inclusive.

The Infant and Neo-natal Mortality Rates are per 1,000 live births.

The Maternal Mortality and Stillbirth Rates are per 1,000 live and stillbirths.

The remaining rates are per 1,000 estimated home population.

**VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1954**

Live Births: Legitimate	...	...	...	141	137	278
Illegitimate	...	...	...	7	2	9
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population:						
Crude	...	...	...			15.1
Adjusted	...	...	...			14.5
	(Comparability factor 0.96)					
Stillbirths	...	...	...	2	4	6
Stillbirths—Rate per 1,000 Births (Live and Still)	...	...	...			20.5
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population						
Crude	...	...	...			9.1
Adjusted	...	...	...			11.0
	(Comparability factor 1.20)					
Deaths of Infants under one year	...			7	5	12
Death Rate of Infants under one year of age per 1,000 live births	...	...				41.8
Deaths from Puerperal Causes: There were no maternal deaths during the year.						

**Live Births:**

Two-hundred-and-eighty-seven live births were registered during 1954 and in this respect the figure is the same as for 1953. It is the lowest number of births recorded in the town since 1938, and the corrected birth rate of 14.5 per 1,000 of the estimated resident population continues to be lower than that for England and Wales in 1954, which was 15.2.

It may be that the fall in the birth rate can be accounted for by the exodus of young couples from the town to neighbouring areas where a considerable number of houses have been erected for miners by the Coal Industry Housing Association, and meanwhile house-building in Mexborough has been severely restricted by the lack of suitable building plots.

**Deaths:**

There was a decrease of 22 in the number of deaths recorded during the year on the figure of 196 for 1953, and in this respect there have been fewer deaths in the town during 1954 than in any year since 1946.

The corrected death rate of 11.0 per 1,000 estimated population compares with a figure of 11.9 for Mexborough in 1953, and a rate of 11.3 per 1,000 home population for the country as a whole.

The main causes of death were as follows:—

Diseases of Heart and Blood Vessels	...	73
Malignant Diseases	... ..	31
Pneumonia. Bronchitis and other diseases of the respiratory system	... ..	24

These three categories accounted, therefore, for 128 of the 174 deaths or, in other words, 70 per cent.

Deaths from Malignant Diseases continued to be high, although I am pleased to note a reduction of 2 deaths from these causes on the number of 33 for 1953.

The following Table shows details of the causes of death from Malignant Diseases since 1948:—

	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.
Malignant Neoplasm Buccal cavity and Oesophagus (M) .. ..	1	1 -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -
Malignant Neoplasm Uterus (F) .. ..	- 1	- 2	- 4	- 5	- 2	- 3	- -
Malignant Neoplasm Stomach and Duodenum .. ..	4 6	4 -	6 2	5 3	5 -	8 4	4 3
Malignant Neoplasm Breast.. ..	- -	- 2	- 2	- 2	- 2	1 2	- 1
Malignant Neoplasm Lung Bronchus ..	- -	- -	5 2	4 2	7 1	3 1	6 1
Malignant Neoplasm All other sites including Leukaemia and Aleukaemia .. ..	11 8	12 8	13 5	14 3	16 5	8 5	10 6
TOTALS .. ..	16 15	17 12	24 15	23 15	28 10	20 15	20 11

A total of 7 deaths were recorded from Respiratory Tuberculosis, an increase of 1 death over the figure for 1953, and for the fourth consecutive year there were no deaths from other forms of Tuberculosis.

There was 1 fatal case of Whooping Cough, but no deaths resulted from Measles, and indeed only 1 death from this disease has been recorded in Mexborough during the last 7 years. The following Table gives details of all causes of death recorded during 1954:—

## DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES DURING 1954

Cause of Death					Males	Fem.	Total
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	5	2	7
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	—	—	—
3.	Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	—	—	—
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	—	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	1	—	1
6.	Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	—	1	1
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	—	—	—
8.	Measles	...	...	...	—	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	—	—	—
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	4	3	7
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	6	1	7
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	—	1	1
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	—	—	—
14.	Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	9	6	15
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	1	—	1
16.	Diabetes	...	...	...	—	1	1
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	17	6	23
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	15	7	22
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	1	1	2
20.	Other heart disease	...	...	...	10	9	19
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	3	4	7
22.	Influenza	...	...	...	—	—	—
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	2	4	6
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	11	5	16
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	—	2	2
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	1	1	2
27.	Gastritis. Enteritis and Diarrhoea	...	...	...	1	—	1
28.	Nephritis and Nephrosis	...	...	...	—	—	—
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	—	—	—
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	—	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...	...	1	—	1
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	9	15	24
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	3	1	4
34.	All other accidents	...	...	...	2	1	3
35.	Suicide	...	...	...	1	—	1
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	—	—	—
Total from all causes					103	71	174

For comparison the following Table records the number of deaths registered and the crude death rates for the past 10 years:—

Year	Est. Mid-year Population	Total No. of Deaths	Crude Death Rate
1944	19,300	181	9.4 per 1,000
1945	19,300	197	10.2 „ „
1946	19,300	149	7.7 „ „
1947	19,080	204	10.7 „ „
1948	19,150	209	10.9 „ „
1949	19,270	189	9.8 „ „
1950	19,120	217	11.3 „ „
1951	18,730	230	12.3 „ „
1952	19,230	178	9.3 „ „
1953	19,240	196	10.2 „ „
1954	19,020	174	9.1 „ „

### Infant Mortality and Stillbirth Rates

Twelve deaths of infants under 1 year of age were registered in Mexborough during 1954, an increase of 1 over the figure recorded for 1953.

The number of live births recorded was exactly the same as for 1953. The Infant Death Rate, therefore, rose from 38.3 in 1953 to 41.8 in 1954. This is the highest Infant Death Rate since 1951, when a rate of 54.8 per 1,000 registered live births was recorded.

Comparisons of rates on a year-to-year basis are not satisfactory in view of the low number of births registered in the District. As in previous years, therefore, I am including a Table which compares the Infant Death Rate and Stillbirth Rate over a period of 7 years preceeding and including 1948 and for the corresponding 6 years since Divisionalisation:—

Period	Number of Live Births	Number of Still Births	Number of Deaths of Infants Under 1 year	Still Birth Rate per 1,000 live and Still Births	Inf. Death Rate per 1,000 reltd. Live Births
Six years 1943–1948 (inclusive)	2,134	59	112	26.9	52.5
Six years 1949–1954 (inclusive)	1,890	48	77	24.7	40.7

From this Table it will be seen that the Infant Death Rate has improved from 52.5 per 1,000 registered live births to 40.7 per 1,000 registered live births. The Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths has only fallen slightly from 26.9 to 24.7. However, the trend in both cases is not unsatisfactory.

It is interesting to note that of the 12 infant deaths recorded in 1954, 9 occurred during the first week of life, Atelectasis accounting for 4 of these. Such a preponderance of neo-natal deaths indicate a continued need for advice in the group teaching and ante-natal care of expectant mothers, and reference is made to this problem later in this Report.

The following Table details the number of live births, still-births and deaths of infants under 1 year in your District in the years since 1938.

	MEXBOROUGH U.D.		
Year	Live Births	Still Births	Total deaths of infants under 1 year
1938	290	12	16
1939	293	15	14
1940	306	18	16
1941	290	18	20
1942	304	11	20
1943	312	9	14
1944	376	12	22
1945	332	7	18
1946	346	12	20
1947	409	9	19
1948	359	10	19
1949	368	9	17
1950	348	8	11
1951	292	9	16
1952	308	5	10
1953	287	11	11
1954	287	6	12

Tables follow which show the cause and age at death of infants under 1 year of age and the time of year in which these deaths occurred:—

INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE

Cause of Death	AGE AT DEATH									
	Weeks				Months					Total
	Un-der 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	1-2	2-3	3-6	6-9	9-12	
Congenital Malformation ..	1									1
Prematurity ..	1									1
Birth Injuries ..	2									2
Atelectasis ..	4									4
Whooping Cough ..					1					1
Meningitis ..					1					1
Jaundice of the Newborn ..	1									1
Gastro Enteritis ..				1						1
	9			1	2					12

Infant Deaths							
January	...	...	...	...	...	1	} First Quarter 6
February	...	...	...	...	...	3	
March	...	...	...	...	...	2	
April	...	...	...	...	...	1	} Second Quarter 4
May	...	...	...	...	...	1	
June	...	...	...	...	...	2	
July	...	...	...	...	...	1	} Third Quarter 1
August	...	...	...	...	...	—	
September	...	...	...	...	...	—	
October	...	...	...	...	...	1	} Fourth Quarter 1
November	...	...	...	...	...	—	
December	...	...	...	...	...	—	

### Maternal Mortality

I am again pleased to report that there were no maternal deaths in your District during the year 1954.

## SECTION B.

### 1. General Provision of Health Services for the Area:

Full particulars of the Public Health Officers of your Authority are printed at the beginning of this Report for easy reference.

#### (a) Laboratory Facilities

The Medical Research Council Laboratory at Wakefield under its Medical Director, Dr. L. A. Little, provides facilities for the bacteriological examination of specimens for infectious diseases and the testing of water, milk and ice-cream samples, and is freely available to Divisional Medical Officers for advice on public health matters.

Use is also made of the Laboratory for the examination of blood samples from expectant mothers to determine the amount of Haemoglobin in the blood, and an increased use of the Laboratory has been made in this respect during 1954, consequent upon Dr. MacWilliam's inquiries into diet and iron deficiencies during pregnancy.

The grouping of blood for Rh factor, etc., is undertaken for all mothers attending Ante-Natal Clinics and samples for this purpose are despatched to the Regional Blood Transfusion Centre at Sheffield, where the Medical Officer in charge is Dr. C. C. Bowley.

(b) **Ambulance Facilities**

The ambulance facilities for your District are controlled by the County Ambulance Officer, and the Area is provided with service by ambulances based at the Depot at Dunford House, Wath-upon-Dearne.

(c) **Nursing in the Home**

At the 31st December, 1954, the Home Nursing Staff in Mexborough consisted of one Queen's Nurse and two State Registered Nurses. Two of these Nurses were provided with cars by the County Council for use in the course of their duties. Relief was provided when necessary by relief nurses resident in Goldthorpe and Conisbrough.

In the whole of the Medical Division during 1954, Home Nurses made 43,198 visits, the highest number in any year, and of this large total the Nurses employed in Mexborough made 12,372 visits.

The following are the number of visits made by Home Nurses to patients in the town during the last 5 years:—

1950 —	9,385
1951 —	11,632
1952 —	10,949
1953 —	10,760
1954 —	12,372

A total of 390 cases were nursed during the year, and the following Table classifies the age groups and the types of cases concerned, i.e., medical, surgical, infectious diseases, tuberculosis and maternal complications:—

Age Groups			Classification					
0-5	5-65	65+	M	S	ID	TB	MC	Total
40	248	114	314	77	1	9	1	402

The following Table shows under the same headings the number of visits paid to the above-mentioned cases:—

Age Groups			Classification					
0-5	5-65	65+	M	S	ID	TB	MC	Total
341	5,084	6,507	10,034	1,099	84	202	11	2,372

An interesting point which is shown from the Tables above is that over half the visits made were to patients over 65 years of age, although the number of cases in this age group represents only a quarter of the total. These figures reflect how the Home Nurse, working in conjunction with a Home Help, can meet the needs of the aged sick person in these days of shortage of hospital beds for the chronic sick.

Other figures available to me indicate that an eighth of the number of cases under the care of the Home Nurses were of a semi-permanent nature.

**(d) Treatment Centres and Clinics, including Clinics used solely for diagnosis and consultation.**

Child Welfare Centre, Adwick Road, Mexborough.

Tuesday: 9.30 a.m. to 12 noon — Ultra Violet Ray Clinic and Minor Ailments Clinic

2.0 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. — Infant Welfare and Immunisation Clinic

Wednesday: 2 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. — Ante-natal Clinic

Thursday: 9.30 a.m. to 12 noon — Minor Ailments Clinic

2.0 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. — Infant Welfare Clinic

Friday: 9.30 a.m. to 10.30 a.m. — Ultra Violet Ray Clinic

In addition to the above, Ophthalmic Clinics are held in the Child Welfare Centre on three or four sessions every three weeks, and Paediatric Clinics once every month.

A Group Training Class for mental defectives is held on Wednesday and Thursday morning of each week.

**(e) Infant Welfare Clinics**

Infant Welfare Clinics are held at the Child Welfare Centre, Mexborough, on the days and times as stated in the previous paragraph. During the past year attendances at these Clinics have been as follows (comparative figures for the past two years are also included):—

	1954	1953	1952
Under 1 year of age ...	3,683	2,440	3,773
Over 1 year of age ...	1,633	2,269	1,706

In all, 569 children attended the Clinic during 1954, 236 of whom were under one year of age. Of the remainder, 184 were under two years of age.

At the end of June, 1954, the responsibility of the distribution of welfare foods previously issued by the Ministry of Food was handed over to the Local Health Authority and, as a consequence, National Dried Milk, orange juice, vitamin tablets and cod liver oil were available for issue daily from the Divisional Public Health Office. During the latter half of 1954 over £1,000 worth of orange juice and National Dried Milk was sold through distribution centres in the Division as a whole. At the Clinics the emphasis is on health teaching by the Health Visitors rather than treatment of children.

#### (f) **Ante-Natal Clinics**

Two-hundred-and-twenty-one expectant mothers made 936 attendances at the Ante-Natal Clinic held at the Child Welfare Centre, Mexborough, on Wednesday afternoons under the medical care of Dr. J. C. MacWilliam. Additionally, in August, two Midwives who have been specially trained for this purpose, inaugurated a Relaxation Class which was held on Monday afternoon. Fifty-one attendances were made by expectant mothers to these classes.

By virtue of Dr. MacWilliam's appointment as Medical Officer in charge of the Ante-Natal Clinics, and Obstetrician at the Montagu Hospital, Mexborough, it was possible to ensure that all cases, where there was a possibility of difficulties arising at the confinement, received every care and attention during pregnancy and accommodation was secured for their confinement in hospital if necessary.

During the year particular attention was paid to the diet of the expectant mother and Dr. MacWilliam undertook a great amount of investigation into this subject. As a result suitable diet sheets were compiled and issued to expectant mothers attending the Clinics. Large issues were also made of tablets containing iron and calcium preparations.

#### (g) **Chest Clinics**

The Chest Clinic situated at Whateley House, Cemetery Road, Mexborough, under the medical care of Dr. F. C. N. Holden, Dr. R. L. Sadler and Dr. Maguire, provided facilities for the care of tuberculous patients and contacts in the town during 1954.

There was complete liaison between the medical staff of the Chest Clinic and the public health staff, and to facilitate this, arrangements were made for the Health Visitors to attend the morning sessions at the Clinic.

Additionally, occasional meetings were held of the Chest Clinic staff and our own staff to discuss ways and means of improving the services.

(h) **Venereal Disease Clinics**

Treatment and diagnostic clinics for venereal diseases are held at centres in Rotherham, Doncaster, Sheffield and Barnsley.

(i) **General Hospital Services**

General hospital services for your District are provided mainly by the Montagu Hospital at Mexborough, the Fullerton Hospital, Denaby Main, and Moorgate General Hospital, Rotherham.

The After-Care Service at the Montagu Hospital, arranged through a Liaison Health Visitor, was continued during 1954 and further details of this service are included later in the Report.

(j) **Infectious Disease Hospitals**

Cases of infectious diseases arising in the town and requiring hospital isolation were admitted during the year to the Kennedy Isolation Hospital at Barnsley, and to a lesser extent to Doncaster Isolation Hospital. Accommodation for these cases was adequate, no difficulty being experienced over the admission of any case.

(k) **Maternity Hospitals**

The Maternity Block at the Montagu Hospital, Mexborough, provided accommodation for the majority of maternity cases from this District, where after investigation it was considered desirable that an institutional confinement should be arranged. During 1954 there were 518 births to mothers, normally resident in the Divisional Area, in Hospitals and Maternity Homes, and 367 of these took place in the Montagu Hospital, Mexborough. The Western Hospital, Balby, and Listerdale Maternity Home, Wickersley, provided alternative accommodation for a few cases.

## **2. MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES**

The following are details of mental health patients in the Mexborough Area during 1954:—

Training	...	...	...	2 attending Occupation Centre
				9 attending Group Training Classes
				8 being given home tuition

Institutions and Vacancies ...	Vacancies are required for 4 defectives resident in your District
West Riding Patients ...	20 under Statutory Supervision 4 under Voluntary Supervision 1 under Guardianship
Hospital Board Patients ...	8 After-care patients

## **Mental Health—General**

In 1954 more progress was made in the Mental Health Service in this Division than in previous years, but the greatest need is still for an Occupation Centre large enough to meet the requirements for the whole of this Division. Such a Centre would undoubtedly ease the demand made for Institutional care in the District.

Group training classes are held twice weekly at the Mexborough Child Welfare Centre as follows:—

Wednesday	...	10 a.m. to 12 noon
Thursday	...	10 a.m. to 12 noon

Taking the Division as a whole these group classes are still expanding, and most of the children newly ascertained during 1954 are in attendance. Large numbers of patients of all ages are being trained with a good deal of success, and 65 children and some adults are receiving training in the whole of this Division, either at home or in group classes.

## **After-Care Service**

The Mental Health After-Care Service has expanded greatly in 1954. Excellent co-operation exists in your Area between the Regional Hospital Board, Psychiatric Clinics and the Mental Health Social Worker. A total of 38 visits was made to hospital after-care cases in the whole of this Division, and of this number 24 patients requested that the Mental Health Social Worker continue to call. Eight of these cases were resident in Mexborough. All school leavers who were found to be employable, but who were in need of further supervision after leaving school, were helped to find suitable employment by the Mental Health Social Worker acting in liaison with the Youth Employment Service.

The following Table sets out the position with regard to all patients being supervised under the Mental Deficiency Acts in the Mexborough Urban District, in Division 30 as a whole, and the corresponding figures for last year are shown in brackets:—

### MENTAL DEFICIENCY ACTS, 1913-1938

	Div. 30	Mexborough U.D.
1. No. of defectives ascertained during 1954 .. .. .	15 (8)	4 (3)
2. No. under Guardianship .. ..	6 (6)	1 (1)
No. under Statutory Supervision ..	105 (110)	20 (19)
No. under Voluntary Supervision ..	26 (25)	4 (5)
No. on licence from Institution ..	2 (3)	— (—)
3. No. awaiting Institutional Vacancies	20 (22)	4 (4)
No. attending Doncaster Occupation Centre .. .. .	8 (9)	2 (2)
No. being home trained .. ..	30 (30)	8 (6)
No. attending Group Training Classes	35 (35)	9 (9)
Reports made for Regional Hospital Board (Institutional Patients) ..	31 (17)	9 (4)
After-care patient (Mental Hospital) under Section 28 of the National Health Service Act .. .. .	24 (13)	8 (6)
Number in brackets are corresponding figures for 1953		

### 3. MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

#### (i) Health Visiting

At the end of 1954 there were 3 fully qualified Health Visitors and 1 Assistant Health Visitor employed in Mexborough and based on the Child Welfare Centre.

During the year Health Visitors in the whole of this Division made 41,861 visits to 2,312 households and attended 1,573 Clinic sessions. Of this total the Health Visitors in Mexborough alone made 10,732 visits. Seven thousand one hundred and fifty-three of these were made to children under 5 years of age. The total visits to children under 1 year of age was 3,958.

The work of the Health Visitor, however, is gradually becoming that of an adviser to the family as a whole rather than a Nurse purely responsible for the welfare of infants under 5 years of age, and in this connection 3,579 visits were made by Health Visitors to other cases, i.e. families where Home Helps are employed and to aged people.

Arrangements were made so that in 1955 the Health Visitors in the town would be truly "all purpose," and take over the duties of visiting families where there was a case of Tuberculosis. These duties have in the past been undertaken by a Tuberculosis Visitor.

One-hundred-and-sixty visits were made to schools in connection with medical inspections, cleanliness surveys and other special business, and additionally 350 home visits were made to follow-up treatment and give advice following medical inspections etc. at schools.

During 1954 a special effort was made throughout the County Area as a whole to increase the co-operation between the Health Visitor and the General Practitioners. Fortunately this co-operation has always been very evident in your District, but to ensure that the best possible liaison was being obtained, personal introductions were arranged between each Health Visitor and each Family Doctor practising in the town. Where practicable a telephone was installed at the home of the Health Visitor so that the Doctor could get in touch with her after normal duty hours, if this was essential.

Naturally, as a family adviser, much of the work of the Health Visitor consists of the supervision of those families where a social problem exists, and in this connection the Health Visitors' reports and advice were most helpful at quarterly meetings held by me throughout the year of a Committee which correlates information regarding children who may be neglected or ill-treated in their own homes.

## (ii) **Domiciliary Midwives**

Three Midwives were employed in Mexborough during 1954, and holiday relief was provided for them by a fourth Midwife resident in Mexborough but whose duties also covered the Conisbrough District. All were in possession of motor cars for use in the course of their duties.

The Midwives in the town accepted 179 new bookings from expectant mothers during 1954, and 129 cases were delivered on the District.

A total of 1,140 ante-natal visits to the homes of these patients was made by Midwives, 878 of which were made to expectant mothers who were to be confined at home, and 262 to patients who had been booked for Hospital or Maternity Home confinements.

Additionally 2,356 visits were made to mothers after their home confinement, and 259 visits to mothers who were confined in Hospital but discharged before the fourteenth day following the birth of their children.

There was continued close relationship and co-operation between the General Medical Practitioners in the District and Domiciliary Midwives during the year.

### **Analgesia**

Of the 129 mothers who were confined at home in Mexborough during the year, 90 received gas and air analgesia. i.e. 70 per cent. This compares with a ratio of 62 per cent. in 1953.

The percentage of expectant mothers receiving gas and air analgesia in the Division as a whole is 79 per cent., and in the West Riding Administrative County as a whole, 61 per cent. The position, therefore, in this respect in this District is considered to be satisfactory. Additionally, 61 expectant mothers were given injections of Pethidine during labour.

### **Applications for Institutional Confinement**

A total of 124 applications were received from expectant mothers in your District for admission to Hospital or Maternity Homes for their confinements during 1954. Of these, 108 were booked.

The Montagu Hospital, Mexborough, accepted 91 patients, and others were booked at the Listerdale Maternity Home and various other Hospitals. The shortage of beds in Maternity Units continued, and it was thus necessary to continue a system of grading applications into priority groups, depending on medical, obstetric or environmental conditions.

## **4. VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION**

Immunisation sessions are held at the Child Welfare Centre, Mexborough, on Tuesday afternoon between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m.

Facilities are available during these sessions for the immunisation of children against Diphtheria and vaccination against Smallpox, and additionally all Family Doctors in the District will provide these services free of charge at their surgeries.

To maintain the present satisfactory position whereby there have been no cases of Diphtheria in the District for some years, it is considered essential to secure the immunisation of not less than 75 per cent. of all babies before their first birthday. Without this protection there may well be a severe outbreak, as happened during 1953 in the Midlands, where 38 cases of Diphtheria were notified and 3 children who had not been immunised died.

It is disturbing to note, therefore, that only 48 per cent. of all children under 5 years of age in the town have been immunised against Diphtheria. Bearing in mind that over 70 per cent. of all children of school age are immunised, there is obviously no opposition to immunisation by parents, and the conclusion must be drawn that apathy is the main reason for the large number of unprotected children under 5 years of age.

In contrast to the poor response by parents for the immunisation of their children against Diphtheria, the scheme for immunisation against Whooping Cough has drawn a good response, and indeed mothers are willing and anxious for their babies to be protected. No doubt the familiarity of Whooping Cough accounts for this, but nevertheless the effect of Whooping Cough on a child cannot be compared with the deadliness of Diphtheria.

I am also disturbed at the low number of children under the age of 1 year, and indeed under the age of 15, who have been vaccinated against Smallpox.

It will be noted from the following Tables that only 3 infants under 1 year of age were immunised during 1954, and a total of 10 children under 15 years of age. It should be emphasised that unless there is an increase in the number of children vaccinated against Smallpox in infancy, there must always remain the possibility of an outbreak of this disease, especially in these days of fast air transport. Most adolescents, especially boys, must be vaccinated eventually, and primary vaccination in infancy is much less likely to be followed by complications, besides giving protection during those vital early years.

The following Table gives details of statistics relating to Diphtheria immunisation and vaccination against Smallpox in Mexborough for the year ended 31st December, 1954:—

STATISTICS RELATING TO DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1954

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

Urban District	No. of Children Immunised in 1954			Booster Doses in 1954	No. of children immunised at any time up to 31.12.54			Estimated mid-year population in 1954			Percentage Rate		
	Under 5 yrs.	5-14 years	Total		Under 5 yrs.	5-14 years	Total	Under 5 yrs.	5-14 years	Total	Under 5 yrs.	5-14 years	Total
Mexborough U.D.	145	162	307	213	598	2506	3104	1235	3412	4647	48.5	73.4	66.7

VACCINATION 1954

Mexborough U.D.	Under 1 yr. 1954	1-4 years	5-14 years	15 years and over	Total
Primary	3	7	3	16	29
Re-Vaccination	—	—	—	4	4

## 5. SECTION 28—PREVENTION OF ILLNESS, CARE AND AFTER-CARE

### Hospital After-Care

During 1954 Miss D. M. E. Goldthorpe, Health Visitor, continued to attend the Montagu Hospital, Mexborough, for the purpose of arranging hospital after-care for cases due to be discharged.

In all, 103 sessions at the hospital were attended by this Liaison Health Visitor, covering an approximate time of 209 hours. Requests were received from the hospital authorities for background reports relating to 215 patients, and in 154 cases these reports were completed and returned to the hospital. Miss Goldthorpe personally interviewed 78 patients, 41 of whom required some assistance after their discharge, and all these cases were dealt with satisfactorily. In all a total of 246 patients were referred for after-care on discharge from hospital, and the Public Health Department was able to take action in all but 4 of these cases. In the majority of these cases the assistance consisted of advice from the Health Visitor, but every help was provided as follows:—

Assistance by the Midwife	...	2 cases
Assistance by the Home Nurse	...	33 cases
Home Help provided	... ..	13 cases
Rehabilitation arranged	... ..	4 cases
Convalescence arranged	... ..	2 cases
Transfer to hospitals or homes for the chronic sick	... ..	10 cases

In addition, nursing equipment was provided, where this was required.

Good co-operation between the Liaison Health Visitor and the medical and nursing staff at the Montagu Hospital has been maintained throughout the year, and the scheme has ensured that the maximum value of hospital treatment is maintained after the patient is discharged home.

## 6. SECTION 47 NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

This section provides for the removal to an Institution of any person who is unable to devote to himself or herself proper care and attention or is not receiving this care and attention from other persons.

I am pleased to report that it was not necessary to take any action under this section in Mexborough during 1954.

## 7. HOME HELP SERVICE

One-hundred-and-sixty-six families in Mexborough were provided with assistance through the Home Help Service during 1954. This represents an increase of 17 cases over 1953, and an increase of 44 cases on the figure for 1950.

The following Table indicates the category of patients assisted in 1954 with comparative figures for the previous 4 years:

	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950
Illness and care of children of school age ...	21	20	24	36	35
Tuberculosis . . . . .	6	8	9	7	1
Lying-in and care of expectant mothers ...	26	32	41	36	44
Aged sick and infirm ...	113	89	60	56	42

The greatest demand for the service, therefore, arises in the homes of the aged sick and infirm, and it will be noted that the number of cases in this category has risen nearly threefold since 1950. The continued shortage of beds for chronic sick cases means, however, that these people must be nursed at home, and the provision of a Home Help coupled with the attendance of the Home Nurse are the most effective means of providing the necessary care and attention for such cases. With the continued increase in the aged population, it is likely that the demand from this section of the community for the Home Help Service will continue to increase even further.

In this medical Division as a whole during 1954, an average of 55 Home Helps were employed to the extent of approximately 60,000 hours, and they attended 457 households.

## 8. SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE

During 1954, the work of the School Medical Service has been carried out as follows:—

Routine inspections of:—

- (1) Entrants
- (2) Junior Leavers
- (3) Senior Leavers

Periodic inspections also for:—

- (1) Pre-nursing candidates for entrance to Technical School
- (2) Children prior to holiday in camp
- (3) Children requiring general anaesthetic for dental treatment
- (4) College entrants
- (5) Handicapped children

**A Paediatric Clinic** is held monthly at the Child Welfare Centre, Mexborough. These give the opportunity for the School Medical Officer to discuss difficult cases with the Paediatrician, and the interchange of data and investigation lead to more accuracy in diagnosis.

**Ultra-Violet Ray Clinics** are held twice weekly, the numbers attending varying with the incidence of illness and the weather conditions. Three-hundred-and-fourty-four children were treated at the 78 sessions held at Mexborough Child Welfare Centre during the year.

**Ear, Nose and Throat**—All cases referred to the Ear, Nose and Throat Surgeon have been examined, but there are still cases on the hospital list awaiting treatment.

**Eye Clinics**—These have been held in a three-weekly rota, but there is a considerable waiting list for examination. It is disappointing to find that many children come to school without the glasses after they have been obtained.

**Diphtheria Immunisation**—During the Summer Term only Booster doses were given. Unfortunately the percentage of Entrants immunised was so low that parents during routine inspection were asked to sign the cards when present at the examination. This gave a good response and all Infants' Schools in the Mexborough Area were visited.

Although there have been no cases of Diphtheria in the District it cannot be too strongly urged that infants should be immunised before their first birthday so that they are protected in their most vulnerable years, and also more time could be given in school time to more examinations.

**Handicapped Children**—These include the children who are blind, deaf, spastic, epileptic, crippled and mentally sub-normal. The problem is not in the actual numbers of these children but because of the responsibility which they involve. The increasing emphasis of recent years upon the advisability of keeping these children at home has added to their responsibility.

The greatest independence compatible with the handicap is essential to the full development of the handicapped child, and to achieve this the continuing and intelligent co-operation of the parents is essential.

**Infestation of Heads**—Far too many cases attend clinics for this reason. It is a serious reflection on the attitude of girls due to leave school that they should be so lacking in social sense and personal pride.

**Child Guidance Clinics**—Behaviour problems still made up the largest number of cases sent for advice and treatment, and teachers fully appreciate the help and co-operation given in these clinics.

**Speech Therapy**—Each district has averaged 50 clinics per year with very satisfactory results. Unfortunately the Speech Therapist left at the end of the year, and has not yet been replaced.

It has been said that the basis of success in the School Health Service is the understanding watch kept over the child in health as well as in sickness. To achieve this object there must be whole-hearted co-operation between the School Medical Officer, the Health Visitor, the Teacher and the Parent, and as School Medical Officer I would like to thank the Health Visitors and Teaching Staff for their ungrudging and valuable help, and the Parents for their continued interest and understanding.

## **SECTION C.**

### **PREVALENCE & CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES**

#### **Notifiable Diseases other than Tuberculosis**

The following Tables show that during the year ended 31st December, 1954, Measles, Whooping Cough and Scarlet Fever were the most prevalent infectious diseases in your District. However, the number of cases of Measles notified during the year (188) was only slightly over half the number notified during 1953 when there was an outbreak and 346 cases were notified to me. The number of cases of Whooping Cough showed an increase of 30 over the previous year, but there were 4 fewer cases of Scarlet Fever. I am pleased to report that no deaths were reported from any of these diseases.

It is also pleasing to note the absence of notifications of Acute Poliomyelitis and Diphtheria.

Seven cases of Dysentery and 1 of Food Poisoning were confirmed during 1954, but all these were of a mild nature and were isolated cases.

Notifications of Acute Pneumonia totalled 27 compared with 44 in the previous year, and there were only 6 deaths recorded compared with 15 the previous year.

### INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Notifiable Diseases (other then Tuberculosis) during 1954  
Mexborough.

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases after Correction	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever .. ..	65	63	51	—
Whooping Cough .. ..	96	96	7	—
Acute Poliomyelitis (Paralytic) .. ..	—	—	—	—
Measles .. ..	188	188	6	—
Diphtheria .. ..	—	—	—	—
Acute Pneumonia .. ..	27	27	8	1
Dysentery .. ..	8	7	2	—
Acute Encephalitis (infective) .. ..	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas .. ..	5	5	1	—
Meningococcal Infection..	3	3	3	—
Puerperal Pyrexia .. ..	3	3	3	—
Food Poisoning .. ..	1	1	—	—

### INFECTIOUS DISEASES (CORRECTED) 1954

Age Distribution

	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Measles	Acute Pneumonia	Meningococcal Infection	Dysentery	Food Poisoning	Puerperal Pyrexia	Erysipelas
Under 5	19	56	111	2	—	5	—	—	—
5-14	40	37	76	—	—	—	—	—	1
15-44	4	3	1	5	1	2	1	3	2
45-64	—	—	—	13	2	—	—	—	1
65 and over	—	—	—	7	—	—	—	—	1
Totals ..	63	96	188	27	3	7	1	3	5

## Tuberculosis

Seventeen new cases of Tuberculosis were reported in Mexborough, the lowest number since 1947, and one less than in 1953. Fifteen of these were Pulmonary Tuberculosis. The highest incidence occurred in males between 46 and 55 years of age, and there were 2 in males in the 56 to 65 age group. Most of these were miners.

Seven deaths were recorded from Pulmonary Tuberculosis during the year, but for the fourth year in succession there were no deaths of patients suffering from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis, and in fact only 1 death has resulted from this disease in the past 6 years. The number of deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis in 1954 showed an increase of 1 over the previous 2 years, but I think it can reasonably be said that the death rate is being steadily reduced, no doubt due to the successes of modern chest surgery and to the use of new drugs.

With the prolonged life of these patients, however, preventive measures must needs be increased and these are sometimes made more difficult by the fact that some of the more infectious cases occur in the problem type of family. A good deal of contact tracing and special visiting has, therefore, been done by the Tuberculosis Visitor and Health Visitors during the year with much success. In this respect the co-operation of the General Practitioners and the Medical Staff at the Chest Clinic, Mexborough, has always been readily offered.

Accommodation in Sanatoria was obtained more easily for female patients than for males, but in neither case did the waiting period extend more than about 8 weeks.

Fifty-seven patients in Mexborough were provided with extra nourishment in the form of two pints of milk per day, and where it was necessary to provide bedroom segregation for the patient from the rest of the family, beds and/or bedding was issued. Large quantities of wax sputum cartons were also issued to patients in order to prevent the spread of Tuberculosis.

During the year 6 families where there was a known case of Tuberculosis were provided with domestic help, and children whose parents were suffering from Tuberculosis were vaccinated with B.C.G. vaccine and, where necessary, segregation from the family was arranged for a period of six weeks. It is eventually hoped to offer B.C.G. vaccination, with the consent of their parents, to schoolchildren over 13 years of age.

The following Tables detail the number of deaths and notifications of Tuberculosis in the Mexborough District since 1945:—

## DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS

Year	Mexborough U.D.	
	Pulmonary	Non-Pul.
1954	7	—
1953	6	—
1952	6	—
1951	12	—
1950	9	1
1949	13	—
1948	9	2
1947	5	4
1946	12	1
1945	4	1

## NOTIFICATIONS OF TUBERCULOSIS (NEW CASES)

Year	Mexborough U.D.	
	Pulmonary	Non-Pul
1954	15	2
1953	17	1
1952	29	3
1951	26	1
1950	18	4
1949	29	1
1948	23	2
1947	11	—
1946	20	2

In December, 1954, the South Yorkshire Mass Radiography Unit, whose headquarters are at the Western Hospital, Balby, made a visit to the Welfare Centre, Mexborough. to undertake a survey, with the following results:—

	Males	Females	Total
Total radiographed ... ..	1,285	1,595	2,880
Passed on miniature film ... ..	1,226	1,528	2,754
Recalled for large film ... ..	50	64	114
Failed to attend for large film ... ..	1	4	5
Passed on large film ... ..	16	31	47
Recalled for medical interview after large film ... ..	33	29	62
Recalled for medical interview without large film ... ..	9	3	12
Referred to Chest Clinic ... ..	26	15	31
Referred to own doctor ... ..	16	15	31
“No action” cases interviewed ... ..	—	2	2

Included in the above total of number radiographed are the following:—

Schoolchildren of 13 years and over ...	614	657	1,271
School Staffs:			
Teachers ... ..	58	66	124
School Cleaners and Caretakers ...	6	7	13
School Meals assisants ... ..	—	57	57
Organised parties from factories, offices, shops, etc. ... ..			
	47	198	245

Arrangements were made, in line with current policy, for schoolchildren over the age of 13 years to attend, with the consent of their parents, and 1,271 pupils from the Technical. Grammar and Secondary Modern Schools in the town attended for X-ray. Additionally, 194 Teachers, School Cleaners and Caretakers and School Meals Assistants who are in direct contact with children attended the Unit.

The following Table gives details of the abnormalities and diseases discovered during the Survey in Mexborough:—

Total X-rayed ... ..	2,880
Tuberculosis: Active ... ..	4
Inactive ... ..	18
Chronic bronchitis and emphysema ...	5
Pnuemonia (non-tuberculous) ... ..	3
Bronchiectasis ... ..	4
Pulmonary fibrosis (non-tuberculous) ...	3
Pnuemoconiosis ... ..	11
Basal Fibrosis ... ..	1
Pleural thickening ... ..	4
Intra-thoacic new growth ... ..	—
Cardiovascular lesions—congenital ... ..	1
—acquired ... ..	13
Miscellaneous ... ..	2
	—
	69
	—

## TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality during 1954

### NEW CASES

Age Periods	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
Years	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	—	—	—	—
1—5	1	—	—	—
6—15	—	—	—	1
16—25	2	1	—	1
26—35	1	1	—	—
36—45	1	—	—	—
46—55	4	—	—	—
56—65	2	1	—	—
66 and over	—	1	—	—
TOTALS	11	4	—	2

### DEATHS

Age Periods	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
Years	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	—	—
6—15	—	—	—	—
16—25	—	—	—	—
26—35	1	1	—	—
36—45	1	—	—	—
46—55	1	—	—	—
56—65	2	—	—	—
66 and over	—	1	—	—
TOTALS	5	1	—	—

# **MEXBOROUGH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

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## **Annual Report** **of the Chief Sanitary Inspector** **for the year ending 31st December, 1954**

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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
MEXBOROUGH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Annual Report on the work of the Department for the year ending December, 1954.

### **Sanitary Circumstances of the Area**

The shortage of houses was again the major problem in the District. There were only 10 new houses erected, 8 by the Local Authority and 2 by private enterprise. Work proceeded on the laying out of a huge new estate in the Highwoods area on which it is hoped to erect some 400 houses. Plans were also prepared for re-development of the Clayfield Road Area upon which approximately 100 houses may be erected. These two areas appear to be the last of any size which may be utilised for housing purposes within the Urban District boundary. There were still 1,716 applicants on the Council Housing List and some 300-400 houses to be dealt with under a Slum Clearance Programme in the future. It was hoped to add a few more houses through redevelopment of certain small areas. The total number of houses in the Urban District on the 31st December, 1954, was 5,271 and these within an area of 1,452 acres. The Registrar General's mid-1954 estimate of resident population was 19,020. The area is thus still very overcrowded with an average of 13.09 persons per acre overall. The problem of water shortage appeared to be solved by an agreement with Sheffield Corporation whereby water could be purchased from them in bulk. New mains had to be laid to connect up with the Sheffield supply but the result was a satisfactory one to an area

on short supply. Difficulties were experienced in the Roman Terrace area, an area served by Swinton Urban District Council. owing to service pipes to several houses having been silted up. Work commenced on a new surface water sewer to be laid from the Wath Road area to discharge into the river and to assist in relieving the already overloaded sewers. Another scheme was considered to relieve overburdened sewers in the east end of the town.

### Water Supply

For the first few months of the year the water supply had to be restricted to 12-14 hours per day as in the previous year owing to the diminution in quantity from the Council bore hole and spring sources. In the early summer this situaton was relieved by the laying of a connecting main to the Sheffield Corporation supply, thus giving an unbounded quantity of soft water. The Roman Terrace area still obtained its water supply through the Swinton Urban District Council. Dfficulties were encountered in this district as several of the communication pipes to the houses were becoming silted up, thus gradually cutting off the supply. The Property Owners' Association were reluctant to advise their members to carry out the necessary repairs to their services owing to result of an unsuccessful action taken against one of their members by the Swinton Urban District Council under Section 93 of the Public Health Act, 1936. Approach was made to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government and eventually Counsel Opinion was sought. It was eventually decided to serve notices under Section 93 of the Public Health Act, 1936, and prepare for appeals to a Higher Court. Notices were served in respect of 7 houses for defective water supplies, and these were complied with by the owners. Twenty-five samples of water were taken for Bacteriological and 2 for Chemical examination and this resulted as follows:—

No. of Bacteriological samples: Satisfactory	...	...	23
Unsatisfactory	...	...	2
No. of Chemical Samples: Satisfactory	...	...	2
Unsatisfactory	...	...	Nil

### Sewage Disposal

The treatment of sewage was carried out at the Sewage Disposal Works adjoining Pastures Road and there were no complaints from the West Riding Rivers Board as to the final effluent: Work commenced on the laying of a new surface water sewer in the Wath Road and Swinton Road areas, to obviate excessive flooding at times of heavy rain:

## Sanitary Inspections of the District

Nature of Inspection:						Inspections
Factories	...	...	...	...	...	67
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	24
Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	142
Offensive Trades	...	...	...	...	...	19
Common Lodging House	...	...	...	...	...	12
Temporary Dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	14
Rats and Mice	...	...	...	...	...	820
Shops	...	...	...	...	...	478
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	90
Houses	...	...	...	...	...	2,409
Slaughter Houses	...	...	...	...	...	41
Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	...	...	58
Restaurants and Cafes	...	...	...	...	...	24
Other Food Premises	...	...	...	...	...	68
Cowsheds, Dairies and Milk Shops	...	...	...	...	...	26
Smoke Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	31
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	47
Vermin Infestations	...	...	...	...	...	198

## Complaints

The number of complaints received during the year was 389, the majority of which were relating to housing defects:

## Housing

Most of the time the Department was occupied with housing work. It was found that it would be possible to commence Slum Clearance work for the first time since 1939. Surveys and inspections were carried out and it was agreed to create a Redevelopment Area in the Clayfield Road area whereby Nos. 9a and 10-33, Clayfield Road, No 1, James Stdeet and Nos. 14-28, New Street, would be demolished and a site cleared for the erection of approximately 100 houses. This was the first major scheme. It was realised that this would take some considerable time, so first-aid repairs would have to be carried out to the other sub-standard property in the town until such time as other clearance schemes could be launched. Preparation work was done so that other schemes could be put into operation without delay. The shortage of suitable alternative accommodation was found to be the chief deterrent to a Slum Clearance Programme.

The number of owner occupiers was on the increase and there were some 37 loans to purchasers under the Small Dwellings Acquisition Act as against 18 in the previous year. In addition there were several mortgages obtained from private sources. The great advantage of this was that most owner occupiers tended to repair and recondition their own houses and bring them to a modern standard, but it was also found that other people in urgent need of homes bought houses which were to be included in future clearance schemes. The reconditioning of houses was encouraged by the Council and 3 Improvement Grants were made.

The number of houses in the district was 5,271 of which 26 were of the back-to-back type. All houses, with the exception of 19 at Wragby Row, were connected to a public sewer. During the year 711 houses were inspected and 2,409 inspections were made. 86 houses were recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations. Repairs were carried out to 518 houses and 70 Statutory Notices were served under the Public Health Act, 1936. It was not found necessary to take legal action in respect of any of these.

List of Statutory Notices served:—

Section 39 Public Health Act, 1936 ...	3
Section 45    "       "       "       "       " ...	7
Section 93    "       "       "       "       " ...	60

A total of 1,005 repairs were carried out to 518 houses and defects remedied are listed below:—

Chimneys repaired ...	38	Damp walls remedied ...	23
Eaves, gutters renewed .	66	Doors repaired ...	38
New Sinks ...	18	Waste pipes renewed ...	2
Roofs repaired ...	125	Defective walls repaired .	39
Windows repaired ...	63	Plaster renewed ..	125
Handrails provided ...	1	Firebacks renewed ...	6
Range repairs ...	115	Water in cellars remedied	36
Choked drains released .	79	Drains reconstructed ...	16
Floors repaired ...	21	Defect. rain water pipes	
Smoke nuisance abated .	2	renewed ...	3
Yard paving ...	7	Steps repaired ...	7
Coppers renewed ...	8	New manholes ...	2
Manholes reconstructed .	8	Water closets renewed ..	6
W.C.s repaired ...	117	Defective urinal ...	1
Miscellaneous ...	32		

Total: 1,005

Total of houses inspected for defects ...	625
Total defects found ...	1,109
Total defects remedied ...	1,005
Number of houses in district ...	5,271

## **Overcrowding**

It has not been possible to carry out an overcrowding survey for many years but the tendency for overcrowding would seem to be diminishing steadily. Several families have been rehoused by the Natonal Coal Board and the Council.

## **Tents, Vans, Sheds**

Three temporary licences were issued in respect of living vans during the year. The vans were all of a good modern standard and were owned by people who had moved into the area to work on various construction sites. No nuisances were caused. There were still bands of travelling gypsies occasionally parking on a site in the Pastures Road area but these were rare and no nuisance was caused.

## **Common Lodging House**

Twelve inspections of the Common Lodging House at Lees Buildings were made. It was felt that the standard was deteriorating. The inmates consisted of 6 or 7 elderly males and up to 20 or 30 young men who had moved into the district, some from overseas, to work on construction sites. Several of the lodgers were people who were earning good incomes but chose the meagre existence of a Common Lodging House. Damage to bedding was frequently found and the attention of the owner had to be drawn to the byelaws on some occasions.

## **Dirty and Verminous Premises**

There were no serious cases of filthy premises although supervision had to be exercised over 2 or 3 problem families whose homes were not of the best. The greater problem appeared to be that of the old aged person, sometimes incontinent, who is incapable of keeping clean a house which at times becomes stained with urine and faecal matter. These are cases in which action under the Public Health Act is difficult and it is only by team work between the Home Nurse, the Health Visitor, tht Home Help and the Sanitary Inspector that something can be done.

Most elderly people are not anxious for a stay in hospital and in any case accommodation for them is limited. My experience has been that in several of these cases relatives are not very keen to give help.

The standard of cleanliness in Council-owned houses was reasonable and all prospective tenants were inspected before a tenancy was allowed.

The incidence of bug-infested premises was low but there appeared to be a slight increase in the number of complaints regarding cockroaches. A free issue of insecticides by the Council was made to necessary cases, and each case was visited and advice freely given by a member of the staff of this Department. The following verminous premises were treated:—

Bug infested properties (including precautionary treatment)	...	...	...	...	...	16
Ant infested	...	...	...	...	...	4
Cockroach infestations	...	...	...	...	...	62
Silverfish	...	...	...	...	...	2
Carpet Moth	...	...	...	...	...	1
Woodworm	...	...	...	...	...	1
Red Spider	...	...	...	...	...	1

## Rodent Control

The Council continued to employ a full-time Rodent Operator and the town was well covered by survey during the year. There were no major infestations found but the danger spots appeared to be the allotment premises, on which animals were frequently kept. Several surveys were made of all allotments in the Town and several minor infestations found and treated. Two 10 per cent. tests of the sewerage system were made in accordance with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries' requests and in only one small area was it found necessary to carry out treatments. Infestations in the sewers have always been small owing, no doubt, to the fact that most sewers are supercharged at times of heavy rain. Particular attention was given to food shop premises and again it was found several mice infestations were evident. Food traders were found to be very co-operative in this matter.

It was found unnecessary to serve legal notices during the year.

Number of rat infested premises and treated	105
Number of baiting points	908
Pre-baits laid	1,485
Post-baits showing infestation clear	1,107
Rat bodies recovered	405
Mice-infested premises	59
Mice bodies recovered	684

## Atmospheric Pollution

Monthly readings were taken with 8 lead peroxide instruments and one deposit gauge. The year's readings showed a slight increase in pollution over the figures of the previous year. The average deposit of soot per square mile per month was in the region of 16 tons. This increase was no doubt due to the fact that there were approximately 10 inches of rainfall more than in the previous year. The pollution came mainly from three sources, the domestic flues, the surrounding collieries, e.g. Denaby Main Colliery, and from works in the Sheffield and Rotherham area.

Frequent approaches were made to the Rotherham and Sheffield Hospital Board regarding excessive smoke from the chimney at the Montagu Hospital, and the Board decided to instal automatic coking stokers to reduce the pollution. The greatest nuisance was still from the chimneys of the Denaby Main Colliery which poured excessive amounts of black smoke into the Mexborough Urban area. Frequent approaches were made to the National Coal Board with the officials of the Conisbrough Urban District Council regarding this matter, but there was little success. The National Coal Board stated that they hoped to electrify the Colliery over the next few years when the nuisance would be completely remedied.

The problem of atmospheric pollution is a very serious one in this district. The matter is no doubt national as well as local. Apart from pollution from the burning of raw coal in domestic grates, there are collieries situated outside the east and west boundaries, and the prevailing south-west wind carries pollution from the works situated in the upper Don Valley.

The readings of the lead peroxide instruments and deposit gauge are below:—

The lead peroxide instruments and deposit gauge readings are enclosed.

# SULPHUR GAUGE READINGS — 1954

Period	Station	Area Exposed in Sq. Cm.	Wt. Ba S04			Wt. of S03 collected Mg/100 sq. cm/day
			In Sample (Mg.)	In Control (Mg.)	Due to Exposure (Mg.)	
Jan. 1954	Bailey	95.0	319.0	9.0	310.0	3.74
	Denaby	93.0	239.0	9.0	230.0	2.83
	Hanby	100.0	190.0	9.0	181.0	2.07
	Market Hall	97.0	329.0	9.0	320.0	3.78
	Sewage Farm	98.0	281.0	9.0	272.0	3.18
	Water Tower	98.0	297.0	9.0	288.0	3.36
	1st Y.E.P.	96.0	223.0	9.0	214.0	2.55
	2nd Y.E.P.	98.0	315.0	9.0	306.0	3.57
Feb. 1954	Bailey	97.0	201.0	3.0	198.0	2.70
	Denaby	96.0	193.0	3.0	190.0	2.61
	Hanby	96.0	152.0	3.0	149.0	2.05
	Market Hall	97.0	241.0	3.0	238.0	3.24
	Sewage Farm	95.0	198.0	3.0	195.0	2.71
	Water Tower	96.0	236.0	3.0	233.0	3.24
	1st Y.E.P.	98.0	167.0	3.0	164.0	2.21
	2nd Y.E.P.	97.0	206.0	3.0	203.0	2.76
March 1954	Bailey	98.0	217.0	7.0	210.0	2.37
	Denaby	97.0	222.0	7.0	215.0	2.46
	Hanby	95.0	188.0	7.0	181.0	2.11
	Market Hall	97.0	260.0	7.0	253.0	2.89
	Sewage Farm	98.0	273.0	7.0	266.0	3.01
	Water Tower	98.0	325.0	7.0	318.0	3.59
	1st Y.E.P.	96.0	201.0	7.0	194.0	2.22
	2nd Y.E.P.	98.0	236.0	7.0	229.0	2.59
April 1954	Bailey	95.0	183.0	10.0	173.0	1.89
	Denaby	98.0	156.0	10.0	146.0	1.55
	Hanby	95.0	142.0	10.0	132.0	1.45
	Market Hall	97.0	253.0	10.0	243.0	2.61
	Sewage Farm	97.0	190.0	10.0	180.0	1.93
	Water Tower	97.0	260.0	10.0	250.0	2.63
	1st Y.E.P.	99.0	160.0	10.0	150.0	1.58
	2nd Y.E.P.	99.0	197.0	10.0	187.0	1.97
May 1954	Bailey	99.0	181.0	6.0	175.0	2.17
	Denaby	98.0	130.0	6.0	124.0	1.55
	Hanby	95.0	120.0	6.0	114.0	1.47
	Market Hall	95.0	186.0	6.0	180.0	2.32
	Sewage Farm	98.0	140.0	6.0	134.0	1.68
	Water Tower	98.0	218.0	6.0	212.0	2.65
	1st Y.E.P.	98.0	127.0	6.0	121.0	1.51
	2nd Y.E.P.	99.0	161.0	6.0	155.0	1.92
June 1954	Bailey	97.0	145.0	11.0	134.0	1.58
	Denaby	98.0	102.0	11.0	91.0	1.06
	Hanby	95.0	94.0	11.0	83.0	1.00
	Market Hall	100.0	188.0	11.0	177.0	2.03
	Sewage Farm	96.0	129.0	11.0	118.0	1.41
	Water Tower	97.0	185.0	11.0	174.0	2.05
	1st Y.E.P.	98.0	113.0	11.0	102.0	1.19
	2nd Y.E.P.		No	Return		

SULPHUR GAUGE READINGS — 1954 (Cont.)

Period	Station	Area Exposed in sq. Cm.	Wt. Ba SO <sub>4</sub>			Wt. of SO <sub>3</sub> collected Mg./100 sq. cm/ day
			In Sample (Mg.)	In Control (Mg.)	Due to Exposure (Mg.)	
July 1954	Bailey	100.0	216.0	4.0	212.0	2.43
	Denaby	99.0	119.0	4.0	115.0	1.33
	Hanby	98.0	125.0	4.0	121.0	1.41
	Market Hall	97.0	194.0	4.0	190.0	2.24
	Sewage Farm	99.0	178.0	4.0	174.0	2.01
	Water Tower	97.0	230.0	4.0	226.0	2.67
	1st Y.E.P.	99.0	131.0	4.0	127.0	1.50
	2nd Y.E.P.					
August 1954	(60 days put out June 1st).	98.0	324.0	4.0	320.0	1.87
	Bailey	96.0	175.0	4.0	171.0	1.91
	Denaby	97.0	99.0	4.0	95.0	1.05
	Hanby	96.0	93.0	4.0	89.0	0.99
	Market Hall			No Return		
	Sewage Farm	97.0	212.0	4.0	208.0	2.31
	Water Tower	97.0	182.0	4.0	178.0	1.97
	1st Y.E.P.	96.0	102.0	4.0	98.0	1.10
Sept. 1954	2nd Y.E.P.	98.0	160.0	4.0	156.0	1.71
	Bailey	101.0	199.0	3.0	196.0	2.22
	Denaby	97.0	139.0	3.0	136.0	1.60
	Hanby	99.0	122.0	3.0	119.0	1.38
	Market Hall	99.0	229.0	3.0	226.0	2.61
	Sewage Farm	98.0	179.0	3.0	176.0	2.16
	Water Tower	98.0	221.0	3.0	218.0	2.55
	1st Y.E.P.	98.0	175.0	3.0	172.0	2.01
Oct. 1954	2nd Y.E.P.	99.0	126.0	3.0	123.0	1.42
	Bailey	94.0	230.0	10.0	220.0	2.59
	Denaby	98.0	170.0	10.0	160.0	1.81
	Hanby	95.0	157.0	10.0	147.0	1.37
	Market Hall	96.0	306.0	10.0	296.0	3.45
	Sewage Farm	96.0	218.0	10.0	208.0	2.40
	Water Tower	95.0	279.0	10.0	269.0	3.14
	1st Y.E.P.	96.0	163.0	10.0	153.0	1.77
Nov. 1954	2nd Y.E.P.	94.0	226.0	10.0	216.0	2.55
	Bailey	98.0	272.0	10.0	262.0	3.06
	Denaby	98.0	199.0	10.0	189.0	2.21
	Hanby	95.0	157.0	10.0	147.0	1.77
	Market Hall	98.0	272.0	10.0	262.0	3.06
	Sewage Farm	99.0	247.0	10.0	237.0	2.74
	Water Tower	98.0	345.0	10.0	335.0	3.91
	1st Y.E.P.	98.0	166.0	10.0	156.0	1.82
Dec. 1954	2nd Y.E.P.	100.0	241.0	10.0	231.0	2.64
	Bailey	97.0	331.0	12.0	319.0	3.64
	Denaby	98.0	282.0	12.0	270.0	3.52
	Hanby	93.0	223.0	12.0	211.0	2.51
	Market Hall	96.0	323.0	12.0	311.0	3.59
	Sewage Farm	94.0	287.0	12.0	275.0	3.24
	Water Tower	97.0	345.0	12.0	333.0	3.80
	1st Y.E.P.	98.0	248.0	12.0	236.0	2.67
	2nd Y.E.P.	98.0	290.0	12.0	278.0	3.14

# DEPOSIT GAUGE READINGS — PERIOD JANUARY — DECEMBER, 1954

Site of Gauge — In front of the Urban District Council Offices, corner of Adwick Road and Doncaster Road, Mexborough.

Gauge Number — D.326.

Metric Factor — (g. deposit to g/100 m.2). 1302.

British Factor — (g. deposit to tons/mi. 2) 33.19.

		Analysis of Matter Collected in Atmospheric Deposit Gauge per Calendar Month											
		Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
WATER Hph Value TOTAL WATER INSOLUBLE MATTER Soluble in CS <sub>2</sub> Ash Other Combustible Matter TOTAL WATER SOLUBLE MATTER Ca ++ Cl- SO <sup>4</sup>	m.m. rain	29.0 4.4	52.0 4.2	35.0 5.1	18.0 5.8	61.0 5.3	38.0 4.8	48.0 4.6	124.0 4.4	33.0 5.8	70.0 4.5	109.0 4.5	61.0 4.3
	tons per sq. mile	5.11	8.60	9.69	8.33	7.73	6.37	8.79	8.39	8.29	9.19	9.43	6.67
	"	0.07	0.13	0.20	0.10	0.10	0.07	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.20	0.20	0.13
	"	3.45	5.81	6.60	5.71	4.68	3.85	4.31	4.38	5.11	5.31	5.38	4.05
	"	1.59	2.66	2.89	2.52	2.95	2.45	4.35	3.88	3.05	3.68	3.85	2.49
	"	5.24	7.20	6.41	4.91	6.24	4.31	7.60	7.90	5.41	11.42	11.65	6.24
	"	0.32	0.53	0.63	0.53	0.56	0.43	0.70	0.53	0.60	0.80	1.00	0.50
	"	1.33	1.16	1.00	0.76	0.73	0.60	0.73	0.90	0.93	0.90	1.66	1.39
	"	1.93	2.29	2.66	1.83	2.66	1.86	2.12	3.15	2.36	4.55	4.22	2.56
	tons per sq. mile	10.36	15.80	16.10	13.24	13.97	10.69	16.40	16.30	13.71	20.61	21.08	12.91

## Food Inspection

Pobably the most important feature of the year was the de-rationing of meat and the Slaughter Houses Act, 1954, which enabled the opening of private slaughter houses. No slaughter house within the Urban District was found to be in a state fit enough to operate without prior reconditioning. Meetings were held by the Council, to which were invited local meat traders, and the Council agreed in principle to licence 3 private slaughter houses providing the premises were put in order to the satisfaction of the Chief Sanitary Inspector. By the year end no attempt had been made by the owners of the premises to bring the slaughter houses up to a good standard and no licences were issued. Meat was purchased by the local traders in the wholesale market and was found to be of reasonably good quality.

Routine visits were made to shops and wholesale premises for the inspection of food stuffs, and attention was given to food preparation in the kitchens of local cafes. There were no complaints regarding the sale of unsound foodstuffs and there were no cases of food poisoning notified.

The following foodstuffs were found unfit for human consumption and destroyed.

### CONDEMNED FOOD—1954

Cooked Ham:	38 tins, 29½lb.	Jellied Veal:	33 tins
Steak:	49 tins	Luncheon Meat:	38 tins, 25lb.
Pork:	8 tins, 41½lb.	Beef Loaf:	6 tins
Oranges:	17 tins	Tomatoes:	383 tins
Rock Lobster:	8 tins	Steak and Veg.	8 tins
Pineapples:	65 tins	Bananas:	2 tins
Sild:	1 tin	Sausage:	90½lb.
Beans:	135 tins	Prunes:	15 tins
Beef and Gravy:	6 tins	Plums:	183 tins
Peaches:	22 tins	Fruit Salad:	3 jars, 9 tins
Milk:	121 tins	Crab Meat:	11 tins
Peas:	39 tins	Dates:	8 pkts.
Jam:	18 jars	Damsons:	5 tins
Mincemeat:	2 tins	Lemon Curd:	5 jars
Grapes:	223 tins, 18lb.	Poultry:	24lb.
Cherries:	5 tins	Pears:	35 tins
Picalilli:	4 jars	Peanut Butter:	2 jars
Coffee:	1 bottle	Eggs:	10 dozen
Apricots:	22 tins	Bilberries:	5 tins
Rabbits:	11 couples	Boiled Ham:	42lb.
Scots Oats:	7 pkts.	Cheese:	350lb., 180 pkts.
Pressed Beef:	13½lb.	Gooseberries:	3 tins

Marmalade:	9 jars	Flour:	3lb.
Raspberries:	5 tins	Tomato Ketchup:	1 bottle
Irish Stew:	5 tins	Beef and Carrots:	1 tin
Fish:	6 tins	Mixed Fruit:	12lb.
Wafers:	63	Strawberries:	54 tins
Hams:	17	Pilchards:	3 tins
Rice:	462lb.	Apples:	2 tins
Greengages:	5 tins	Carrots:	1 tin
Spry:	8 pkts.	Cakes:	25lb., 30
Tongue:	14 tins, 85½lb.	Syrup:	47 tins
Salmon:	4 tins	Corned Beef:	22 tins, 11lb.
Grapefruit:	13 tins	Brawn:	2 tins
Veal, Ham and Tongue:	10½lb.	Jellies:	11
Herrings:	2 stone	Pig Carcases and Organs:	2
Fore:	433lb.	Pickles:	5 jars
Butter:	11½lb.	Beetroot:	1 jar
Tomato Juice:	2 tins	Pork Pies:	13
Bacon:	3lb.	Salted Peanuts:	112lb.
Red Cabbage:	4 jars	Marshmallows	160
Meat in Cereal:	6 tins	Rhubarb	1 tin
Turkish Delight:	8 boxes	Butter Beans	21 tins
Lobster Tails:	2 tins	Soup:	17 tins
Cream:	3 tins	Margarine:	8½lb.
Spaghetti:	2 tins	Figs:	6 boxes, 4 tins
Pie Apples:	3 tins	Canned Gammon:	7 tins
Fishcakes:	35		

### Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933

Six licences to stun or slaughter animals were issued during the year and no offences were found.

### Food Premises

The food preparing premises within the Urban District were as follows:—

Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	4
Tripe Boilers	...	...	...	...	...	1
Preparation and manufacture of sausage, pressed, pickled or preserved foods	...	...	...	...	...	10
Fish Friers	...	...	...	...	...	22

The premises were frequently inspected and there was no cause for serious complaint.

The question of the reorganisation of the fish and tripe stalls in the Council-owned market was considered by the Council and a scheme was drawn up by the Chief Sanitary Inspector and the Surveyor.

Spot check visits were made to several food shops in the town and it was found that the food traders readily accepted advice given in the storage and display of foodstuffs.

### Ice Cream

The number of premises registered for the sale of Ice Cream totalled 71, there being an addition of 3 premises during 1954. There was also one registration for the manufacture of ice cream. All premises were made to comply with Section 13 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, before registration was granted and particular attention was given to the provision of hot and cold water. All ice cream was sold wrapped and was supplied by 4 or 5 big manufacturers. 97 inspections of premises were carried out and 11 samples were taken for bacteriological examination. These were placed as follows:—10 in Grade 1, and 1 in Grade 2. Two samples of lollipops manufactured in the town were submitted for bacteriological examination and these proved satisfactory.

### Shops Act, Section 38, 1950

Four-hundred-and-seventy-eight visits were paid to shops under the above-mentioned section and only in 3 were unsatisfactory conditions found: These were remedied.

### Milk Production

Milk Distributors numbered 42. With the exception of one retailer all milk in the town was bottled, but by the year end the sale of loose milk by the one retailer had been discontinued. All the milk was supplied by 3 or 4 large dairy companies.

The following licences for the sale of milk were issued:—

Supplementary Licences (Pasteurised)	...	3
Supplementary Licences (Sterilised)	... ..	3
Supplementary Licences (Tuberculin Tested)		2
Dealers Licence (Sterilised Milk)	... ..	8
Dealers Licence (Pasteurised Milk)	... ..	Nil
Dealers Licence (Tuberculin Tested)	...	1

### Factories

There were 62 factories on the register, 50 with power and 12 with non-power, and there were 2 registrations of Works for Engineering Construction. A total of 67 inspections were made and the following defects were found and remedied:—

Insufficient Sanitary Conveniences	... ..	7
Defective Conveniences	... ..	7
Conveniences cleansed	... ..	1

### Hairdressers

There were 31 registered hairdressers in the Urban District and 34 visits were made. The standard of cleanliness was reasonably good, though certain improvements may have to be carried out to some individual premises.

## **Public Cleansing—Refuse Collection**

The collection of refuse tended to be one of the major problems of the year. The full compliment of staff on collection work was 20 men operating 5 Karrier Bantam Refuse Vehicles. It was only very seldom that this figure was reached. Extensive periods of sickness was one reason for this and absenteeism added to the problem. It was found practically impossible to get suitable replacements of labour as, owing to other attractive jobs in the district, the work of refuse collection was regarded not very favourably. It has been evident since the end of the war that refuse collection is looked down on and fails to offer suitable attraction to workmen. During the summer months, when the service should have been of the highest order, this was not so owing to there being no replacements for men taking annual holidays. It was not found possible to maintain a weekly collection service at all times and the future must be observed with some concern. A total of 215,783 bin premises were serviced and 4,129 loads of refuse dealt with. A weekly service was given to 19 pail closets at Wragby Row.

A total of 576 bins were renewed under the Municipal Bin Scheme.

## **Refuse Disposal**

The whole of the refuse was dealt with by controlled tipping at the Pastures Road Tip, a site acquired from the National Coal Board under agreement. Refuse disposal was also affected by shortage of labour, and it was found that men did not stay long enough to be properly trained for the work.

The total cost of refuse collection and disposal was approximately £11,652. There were increases in the cost of labour due to wages improvement and the maintenance of vehicles was found to be becoming more costly.

## **Salvage**

Income from salvage was £666 11s. 9d. The financial return has steadily decreased since the end of the war,, due to much lower prices for waste paper and apathy by ratepayers and refuse collectors. The weight of waste paper recovered totalled 94 tons 17 cwts.

## **Conclusion**

The Urban District is beset by many problems, the major ones being that of Slum Clearance and Refuse Collection. There were still several hundreds of sub-standard properties in the town and it was gratifying to learn that the work of slum clearance

should be recommended after a lull of almost 15 years. The rate of progress in slum clearance is no doubt going to be tied up with the progression of house building. Due to various technical difficulties the building programme has been very slow and at the present rate of progress it will mean many years before a wholesale clearance can be carried out. In the meantime there is the unenviable task of trying to patch up worn out houses at great expense to the landlord and with money which will not be recovered. The first big clearance area of 42 houses was started during 1954 and it is hoped that the Council will undertake a full programme over the next few years. One difficulty to be faced is the shortage of building land within the Urban area and the fact that although there are upwards of 400 houses to be demolished there are still several hundreds of people on the housing list waiting for homes.

As already stated previously elsewhere in this Report, the refuse collection service is one which causes much concern. Since the end of the war several employees have left to take up more remunerative jobs and with full employment in the district labour is scarce or unsuitable. It would appear that the job of refuse collection is one that is not thought highly of and some applicants for work have stated that it is very undignified. This problem is one to which much attention must be given and the service made attractive enough to acquire the right type of labour.

The problem of atmospheric pollution is still a serious one in this immediate district but I feel that the problem is as much national as local. No doubt quite a lot of the pollution in this area is brought in from outside by the prevailing winds, but the burning of raw coal in a district where coal is plentiful is an evil which I am afraid must stay with us for many years.

I must pay tribute to Dr. J. Leiper and Dr. B. R. A. Demaine for their co-operation and valued help throughout the year, and I must thank the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for the interest shown in dealing with the many problems. I also wish to thank the members of the staff in my own Department for their diligence and co-operation and for their assistance in the compilation of this Report.

I remain,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. BREARLEY,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Cert. S.I.B., M.S.I.A., Cert. Inspector  
of Meat and Other Foods.



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**Dearne Valley Printers, Wath**

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